

December 28, 1949

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

I want to congratulate you on the excellent monograph written by you on Bank Note Reporters and Counterfeit Detectors. I for one can appreciate the enormous quantity of work which went into this fascinating subject. You certainly have uncovered information which I never dreamed was possible to find out.

I am making an effort to see if it is possible to locate any of the items published in St. Louis as they seem to be known through listings or hearsay and there appears to be no actual copies.

I think I can give you some information as to some items on page 72. You intimate that the origin of references to owl creek, coon box, and Cairo are somewhat obscure. It might interest you to know that I have some of the notes of the Owl Creek Bank in my collection if you care to see them. Cairo refers to the Bank of Cairo at Kaskaskia, Illinois, which failed in 1840-41 and had a large note issue which caused tremendous loss in this midwestern area. I also have these notes in my collection. As to coon box, I am not too certain, but it might be the Bank of St. Louis, which failed in 1821, as the \$5.00 note of that Bank has a beaver caught in a trap, and I believe coon box refers to a trap. Whether this particular note gave rise to the saying I do not know, but I will check the matter further.

I own a Hodges, Gwynne & Day, and a Bicknell and have used them often.

If you are ever in this area do not hesitate to pay me a visit as I think you will enjoy my collection.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/me

(over)

Page #2

Mr. William H. Dillistin

December 28, 1949

P.S. I am pleased to report that I have located Saint Louis Bank Note Reporter, Counterfeit Detector and Wholesale Prices Current, dated Saint Louis, December 1, 1857, Volume I, No. 9, published at 122 Pine Street, St. Louis, Missouri, monthly, semi-monthly, and weekly, consisting of 26 pages listing banks, counterfeit notes on banks, and banks which have failed, and at the end thereof contains an additional 6 pages of a Coin Chart Manual. If you wish to examine it I will be glad to have it made available to you.

E.P.N.

December 28, 1949

State Historical Society of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

Gentlemen:

Would it be possible for you to look through your index of old magazines and periodicals published in Missouri to determine whether you have any editions of the following which were published in St. Louis and distributed throughout the Missouri area?

Thomas' Counterfeit Note Detector - about 1831.

Presbury & Company's Counterfeit Detector - 1849.

Clark's Counterfeit Detector - 1853.

St. Louis Bank Note Reporter - (1860)

Lord's Detector - 1859-61 (issued in both Cincinnati and St. Louis).

I would appreciate the foregoing information in view of the fact that I am doing some research in connection with Missouri Bank Notes prior to the Civil War and hope that some of these publications can be found.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/me

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

COLUMBIA

December 29, 1949

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
315 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have just received your letter of December 28th in regard to copies of certain early bank note periodicals published in St. Louis which may be in our files.

I regret that we do not have in our collections files of any of the periodicals mentioned in your letter: Thomas' Counterfeit Detector (ca. 1831); Presbury & Company's Counterfeit Detector (1849); Clark's Counterfeit Detector (1853); the St. Louis Bank Note Reporter (1860); or Lord's Detector (1859-61).

I am sorry, too, that I do not have information about files of these publications which may be owned elsewhere. We do not find them listed in the Union List of Serials.

Sincerely,

*Floyd C. Shoemaker*  
Floyd C. Shoemaker  
Secretary

FCS:SG

THIRTY THREE LIBERTY STREET  
NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

January 4, 1950

Dear Mr. Newman:

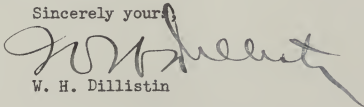
I appreciate very much your kind letter of December 28 regarding my monograph which has been under way for several years. Your reference to my comments on page 72 are of interest. It was no easy job to run down some of the names applied to paper currency in those early days.

I have collected about fifty of these interesting reporters and I am glad to know that you have located a St. Louis reporter which some day I may want to see. I do not have a record of any St. Louis publications of this type.

As you may recall, when I visited you in October 1946 I only had time to look at a few of your interesting items. I hope to have an opportunity to spend more time in the future as this is my last year with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

January 23, 1950

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
Thirty Three Liberty Street  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

I wonder if it would be possible for you to lend me a few Counterfeit Reporters listing the counterfeits or alterations of miscellaneous bank notes for different periods.

As I previously indicated to you, I have a Hodge for 1857, describing genuine bills. Likewise I have a Gwynne & Day for 1862. These cover most of the genuine bills but are inadequate as to western bills. I have no thorough list of any period of the counterfeit issues and would like to have one for as early a period as possible; also one for every five years up to the latest you have available. If there are any counterfeit lists which show the bills from which the counterfeits are altered, I would very much appreciate that. I am enclosing for example \$2 notes on the Blackstone Bank and International Bank which are both alterations of some other note. I have been unable to determine what that other note is. Can you help me?

Likewise I am enclosing a group of alterations of the Exchange Bank, and I have checked and rechecked and am unable to determine where this note was issued. The notes of the Hartford Exchange Bank are very similar but are genuine and unaltered and apparently have no relationship to the notes of the Exchange Bank. You may have studied this sufficiently to help me.

If you have any Bank Note Reporter published between 1857 and 1860 which lists the genuine notes of western banks thoroughly, I would appreciate seeing it, as Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, etc. seem to have been pretty well neglected in most note lists.

Mr. W. H. Dillistin

-2-

January 23, 1950

I will, of course, be glad to pay the shipping expenses on any of these Reporters which you will be kind enough to let me borrow. If you are working with any of them and would prefer to send them at a later date, do not hesitate.

My purpose is to go through my collection and determine which notes are genuine and which are imitation, which notes are altered and from what bank note they are altered.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/me



January 31, 1950

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
33 Liberty Street  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

You have relieved my mind by telling me about the Pioneer Association of LaFayette, Iowa. I have found a Pioneer Association \$1 bill, which I am enclosing for your examination. It has "Indiana" inserted instead of "Iowa" and is a superb job. I also am enclosing five different \$5 alterations of that bank, one of them, however, showing Iowa.

I have discovered a duplicate of the Blackstone Bank \$2 bill and therefore want you to accept that note with my compliments. Since you do not have a \$2 alteration from that bank.

You can now see why I was so anxious to find Bank Note Reporters which listed some of the western issues, as I was unable to locate anywhere the Pioneer Association of LaFayette, Iowa.

When you locate some information on the Exchange Bank I will be delighted, and you can return at that time all of the notes except the one I want you to keep.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/me



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45,N.Y.

January 27, 1950

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have your letter of Jan. 23 enclosing several notes in order that I may try to determine the original bank of issue.

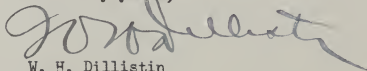
At a later date I shall be glad to loan you a few bank note reporters. At the present time several reporters from my collection are on display in one of the show windows in a bank in Paterson, where I live, and after I get them back I shall send some along for your use.

I have never before seen the altered \$2 notes of the Blackstone Bank or International Bank, both of which appear to have been altered from the same bank of issue. I feel quite satisfied, however, that they were originally the issue of The Pioneer Association of LaFayette, Iowa. I do not know how long this concern lasted or the nature of its business. It is not listed in any bank note reporters that I have examined. You may be familiar with altered 5's of this same concern. They have the same pinkish tinge as your altered 2's. The vignette on the left end of the five dollar note depicts several men about a herd of cattle near a river while the vignette on the <sup>lower</sup> right hand corner shows a yoke of oxen in a hay field with three men loading hay. I have three such altered 5's. The engraver's imprint on these notes, together with the words "patented June 2nd, 1857," are identical with those of the altered International Bank and Blackstone Bank. In the Chase Bank collection here in New York, there is a five dollar unsigned genuine note of The Pioneer Association.

I shall write you again when I have looked further into the matter of the Exchange Bank items.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin  
(General Auditor)

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK**

NEW YORK 45,N.Y.

April 3, 1950

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

This is in reply to your letters of January 23rd and 31st.

Some years ago I believe I had some correspondence with you regarding altered notes of "The Exchange Bank." At that time you were unable to furnish any information and I have been attempting from time to time, without success, to identify the original bank of issue. I have two \$10 notes obviously altered to "The Exchange Bank, Boston." At the present time these notes and one other are with the FBI in Washington. I hope that they may be able to determine the original bank of issue. If successful I will let you know.

I recently spent some time at The Chase National Bank looking over back numbers of The Numismatist without success, in an attempt to find a description of genuine notes of an Exchange Bank that would tie in in some manner with the many altered notes.

In the next few months, I expect to have an opportunity to look over a couple of sizable collections of obsolete notes and am of the opinion that our only hope in this connection is to come across an unaltered genuine note.

In Hodge's Journal of Finance and Bank Note Reporter for December 7, 1861 (enclosed) you will note at the bottom of page 5 under the list of retired banks in Iowa "Exchange Bank." The character following the name indicates that this particular bank was closed. I find in one of Wismer's descriptive lists a reference to a "Keokuh Exchange Bank," (leave) having issued notes of the denomination of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 with no description given.

I agree with you that the \$5 and \$10 notes of the Hartford Exchange Bank of Indiana are genuine notes. I have a \$1 and a \$2 note issued by this same bank. In my letter of January 27, I indicated that the two altered \$2 notes were probably the issue of The Pioneer Association. I find in one of Wismer's descriptive lists as published in The Numismatist for March 1925, p. 130, that the identical note that you have, purporting to be the issue of the International Bank of Portland, Maine,

4/3/50

is illustrated therein. As you probably know, many of the notes in the Col. Green collection were acquired from Mr. Wismer. This particular note is listed there as though it were a genuine item. I also noticed in The Chase National Bank collection an altered two dollar note similar to that of the International Bank purporting to be the issue of "The Bank of Orange County, Chelsea, Vermont." Thanks very much for the altered "two" of The Pioneer Association. I have had your one dollar note photographed. One of my associates here has a friend who is president of a bank in Des Moines, Iowa. About two weeks ago he wrote to this banker and sent along a brief memorandum I prepared in an attempt to try and obtain some information regarding The Pioneer Association. If this results in any information of interest, I shall be glad to pass it along to you.

All of the notes that you sent for my inspection are returned herewith; seven Pioneer items and six Exchange Bank items.

The following bank note reporters are enclosed for your inspection:

July 4, 1840	Clark's	Boston
July 1845	Clark's	Boston
June 15, 1847	Taylor's	New York
June 1849	Bradley's	Cincinnati
Feb. 17, 1851	Foster's	New York
Sept. 15, 1859	Imlay & Bicknell's	Philadelphia
Feb. 1860	Thompson's	New York
May 1, 1860	Peterson's	Philadelphia
Dec. 7, 1861	Hodges'	New York
Aug. 1, 1864	Peterson's	Philadelphia

I am sorry to say that you will not find these reporters very helpful in running down altered notes. Peterson's for May 1, 1860, p. 4, will be no doubt of interest. You probably have altered notes of the Waubeek Bank, Bank of Morgan, and Thames Bank.

I have no reporters dated between 1851 and 1857. I do have Dye's Bank Note Plate Delineator for 1855, the forerunner of the Hodges publications (see my monograph). The book lists for example, 30 banks in Ohio, 40 in Indiana, one in Missouri, and none in Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, or Iowa.

The reporters which I hope will be of interest, may be returned at your convenience. I think that I have covered the questions raised in your previous letters.

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin

Encs.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45,N.Y.

May 1, 1950

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

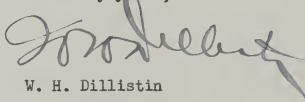
The notes I turned over to the F.B.I. sometime ago have been returned and I thought that you might be interested in the comments made by their laboratory in Washington. They indicated that the words "Boston" and "Mass." were superimposed over other printed wording on the two \$10 items and stated further that it was not possible to develop the words originally appearing on the two specimens. They indicated further that there was no evidence of any alteration on the \$1 note.

They had photographed these items and inasmuch as I have an extra copy I am sending one along to you for your use.

I would appreciate a short note acknowledging receipt of my letter of April 3 together with the notes and bank note reporters enclosed. There need be no hurry on your part to return these items.

I have been in correspondence with a Mr. D. O. Barrett of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who is making quite a study of obsolete bank notes and I took the liberty of giving him your name. He is a retired mechanical engineer and appears to be very much interested in obsolete notes and you may at some time hear from him.

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin

Enc.

May 3, 1950

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
c/o Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

You have no idea how much pleasure I am getting out of the Counterfeit Detectors you forwarded to me along with your letter of April 3. I spread them out whenever there is a spare moment and work on my banknotes. I have completed about six states, but the work is very tedious and difficult, especially because many of the descriptions of the counterfeit are inaccurate, incomplete, and several are differently described although being the same counterfeit. I am sure you have run into all of these problems. However, if you have the opportunity to get any extra or duplicate Counterfeit Detectors, please let me know.

With respect to the Pioneer Association of Lafayette, I find a comment in the Marchhoff article on Iowa notes that the notes attributed to Iowa on this bank are actually Indiana. He is a careful student and I am inclined to believe that the abbreviation "Ia." which appears on the unaltered notes is either intended to be confusing or to be Indiana. Apparently the entire issue was a fraud, but I now believe it is an Indiana item.

Thank you for the photograph and comments made by the Justice Dept. I am inclined to believe that this is the Exchange Bank of Hartford, Indiana, which is another Indiana fraud of the same period as the Pioneer Association. I cannot agree that the \$1.00 note shows no alteration. I am satisfied that the words "State of", as well as "Connecticut" are inserted.

Of course I am delighted to correspond with any sincere collector and hope that I can be helpful to him.

The more I study these obsolete notes the more I feel that most of the population of our country in the early days were engaged in altering and imitating banknotes.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/mw

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45, N. Y.

September 20, 1950.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

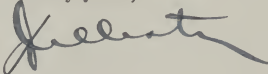
I am planning to attend a meeting of bank auditors in Kansas City during the week beginning Monday, October 23. I had in mind starting a little early and stopping over in St. Louis to visit with you on either Saturday, October 21 or Sunday, October 22. ⓧ

I know I would appreciate an opportunity to spend a little more time looking over your collection and I think that we might have a discussion that would be of mutual interest.

I should appreciate an early reply in order that I might make the necessary travel reservations.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin.

ⓧ That is, if you expect to be in town.  
WHD



September 26, 1950

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
c/o Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

I had been thinking of you this last week or two and was pleased to get your letter of September 20, 1950.

I feel embarrassed at not having finished using your Counterfeit Detectors and, with your further indulgence, I hope to get farther along. The work is very difficult, as you well know.

I will be delighted to spend any time with you in St. Louis which you are able to spare, either Saturday, October 21, or Sunday, October 22. Merely let me know when you will arrive and when you leave, so that I may hold out the necessary time.

I would appreciate it very much if you could find a few Counterfeit Detectors which you can spare, as I do not have any in my library, only banknote lists. It would be very helpful to me, and I imagine that you have accumulated quite a large quantity.

I have had visits from a number of numismatic friends in the last few months and find that there is a very substantially renewed interest in paper money.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/mw

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK 45,N.Y.

September 28, 1950

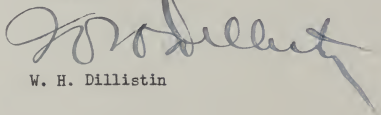
Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am very glad to have your letter of September 26.  
I am planning to leave New York on the Pennsylvania Railroad  
early Saturday afternoon on the train that is due to arrive in  
St. Louis 8:10 A.M. Sunday, October 22. I am planning to leave  
late that evening on the Missouri Pacific sleeper for Kansas  
City.

Please let me know your home address and telephone  
number. Also let me know what time it would be convenient for  
me to come out to your home and the best way to get there.

Sincerely yours,



W. H. Dillistin

October 3, 1950

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
c/o Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

Why don't you make my house your headquarters when passing through St. Louis? My residence is 6450 Cecil Avenue, Clayton, Missouri; my telephone number is PARKview 0850. I admit that my Sunday waking hour is not ordinarily advanced to the time of your arrival, but if you can get up that early I certainly can. I hope your train is late.

It would be slightly more convenient for me if you were taking the Wabash Sleeper for Kansas City on Sunday night, with Pullman accommodations from the Delmar Station. This is only a few blocks from my house. The Missouri Pacific goes a different way, but I believe you can make that change without inconveniencing yourself.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/mw

December 13, 1950

Mr. William P. Dillistin  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

It just occurred to me to remind you that you were going to see if there are any counterfeit reporters which you could spare and which you would either trade me for notes or sell me. You indicated that you might have a number of issues which were concurrent and the elimination of an issue would not be too important..

The only interesting item I recently obtained is a One Dollar Salt Lake and California Mail Line Note, which line operated in 1851 between Salt Lake and Sacramento. It shows a typical Western stage coach with Indians, etc. Other denominations of the issue were written up in a recent publication of Utah currency in the "Numismatist".

With best wishes for the Holidays, I am

Sincerely yours,

PENewman;atb

June 27, 1951

Mr. W. H. Dillistin  
C/o Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Bill:

Your visit to my office yesterday was very delightful and I certainly congratulate you for undertaking your new work.

I went home to look up the situation on the Farmers Bank of Cattaraugus County, New York, and found that I had the identical \$20.00 bill as well as a \$1.00 bill. The \$1.00 bill is dated 1842. Then I looked in the list of obsolete banks in Gwyne & Day and found it listed there so perhaps the bank was never incorporated but issued these post notes to start. The vignette was one that was used on spurious notes and the entire bill may be spurious instead of an alteration. You take the research from there.

See you in Greece.

Sincerely,

EPN;atb

December 22, 1950

Mr. Wm. H. Dillistin  
C/o Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Bill:

I am grateful to you for sending me the counterfeit reporters and I am sure I will get a lot of pleasure out of them. If, at any time, you need these particular items back and wish to substitute others, I am sure there will be no problem. If I am able to find others to substitute I will, of course, be glad to return these.

I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 and I am sure that the possession of this information will save me at least that amount in future purchases.

With best regards for the Holidays,

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman;atb



THIRTY THREE LIBERTY STREET  
NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

July 2, 1951.

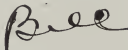
Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,  
315 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Eric:

I have your letter of June 27 containing information regarding the Farmers Bank of Cattaraugus County. This information will have to be put on file for future reference.

I like the closing statement in your letter -- "See you in Greece". I hope you mean that and you will have no difficulty in getting in touch with me at the Bank of Greece in Athens. I expect to be there until at least June of next year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

W. H. Dillistin.

WM. H. DILLISTIN, E.C.A.  
APO-206-C/O POSTMASTER,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK,

Dear Eric:

I am finding that this is a very interesting country. My work is going along fairly well, but it takes quite some time to get anything done.

I have not as yet had an opportunity to get in touch with Prof. Mylonas, but expect to see him some day. I hope that you are still thinking of coming over here next spring.

With kindest regards,

Bill

August 28, 1956

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
New York 45, New York

Dear Mr. Dillistin:

I have thought of you many times in the last few years and particularly when I was in Athens, this summer.

I have discovered, in the United States government records, an unpublished Broadside on the subject of counterfeit Continental currency and am publishing a complete article on that subject in the Numismatist shortly. I am sure you will be interested in that phase of my research.

However, I am enclosing a reference to a currency broadside published, in Boston, in 1807, entitled "The Only Sure Guide to Bank Bills" and containing a list of all counterfeit bills then in circulation, etc. I was out of town when this item appeared and it was gone by the time I ordered it. Perhaps you were the one who bought it or you know some library where this exists. If it is the earliest publication on the subject of counterfeit banknotes I would very much like to have a photostat for informative purposes. Do you know anything about this particular item?

My very kindest personal regards to you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

Ogdensburg, Sussex County,  
New Jersey,  
September 3, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
400 Washington Ave.,  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric::

Your letter addressed to me at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been forwarded to me at our summer place in Northern New Jersey. We will be here until the weekend of September 8th. I retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York nearly six years ago and have had little spare time since. For the past three months I have been a part time vice president of The Perth Amboy National Bank pending the election of a new president which occurred about three weeks ago. My home address is as stated below.

Regarding "The Only Sure Guide to Bank Bills," I think that I referred to that publication in my monograph on Bank Note Reporters (Copy not available here). I believe that I have a photostatic copy of it at home in Paterson. When we return to Paterson in the next few days I will send my copy to you so that you may make a photostatic copy of it.

In December, 1948 I published an article in The Numismatist on Early National Bank Notes and later another article on National Gold Bank Notes. Over the past few years I have done more research into notes of the Second and Third Charter Periods. I expect to have all of this data incorporated into one volume of about 65 pages and have it published shortly. As you know printing costs are high and I feel that I will be fortunate to cover my cost of printing and advertising.

I will be quite interested to see your article on the counterfeiting of Continental Currency.

Sincerely yours,

*Bill*

Wm. H. Dillistin, 443 East 39th St.  
Paterson, New Jersey.

P.S. On January 1st last I was appointed a member of the Board of Finance of the City of Paterson and also selected to serve as president of the Board of four members. As such I am the acting Mayor in the absence of the Mayor.

WHD

September 7, 1956

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
443 East 39th Street  
Paterson, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

I was delighted to hear from you and am glad to know that since your retirement you are working harder than you previously had.

I will be very much interested in borrowing your photo-static copy of "The Only Sure Guide to Bank Bills". Incidentally, you have no idea how much I have enjoyed and used and how much I have learned from the few bank-note counterfeit detectors which you let me have a number of years ago. I find it is tremendously advantageous to have competent detectors from different periods and if, perchance, you have any detectors which you would be willing to part with I would be glad to purchase them. In fact, if you ever part with all of them I would like, very much, to have an opportunity to buy them.

I am going to send you a copy of the first counterfeit detector list which covers the Continental currency just as soon as it is returned to me from the Numismatist.

I am enclosing an article which was a lot of fun to write.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

WILLIAM H. DILLISTIN  
443 EAST 39TH STREET  
PATERSON 4, NEW JERSEY

September 7, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
400 Washington Avenue,  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Herewith is a photostatic copy of what I came across <sup>F</sup>several years ago entitled, "The Only Sure Guide to Bank Bill." I do not have a record of where I found this pamphlet. You will note that it was published a year prior to the broadside recently offered by Goodspeed"s, and appears to contain similar information.

I referred to it in my monograph on Bank Note Reporters. You may make a photostat of it if you care to and return it at your convenience.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Bill Dillistin*



September 14, 1956

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
443 East 39th Street  
Paterson 4, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

I certainly got a substantial amount of enjoyment from the 1806 Counterfeit Detector which you sent me and have made a photostat thereof. I am returning your copy under separate cover.

I have also taken an interest in Broad-sides of banknote engravings which the Banknote Companies put out as sample sheets. I never knew if you collected those or not.

I look forward to seeing you whenever our paths can cross again in the future and thank you for your kindness in lending me your copy of the 1806 list.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

WILLIAM H. DILLISTIN  
443 EAST 39TH STREET  
PATERSON 4, NEW JERSEY

September 22, 1956

Dear Eric:

I have your letter of September 14th and I am glad that you enjoyed seeing the 1806 Counterfeit Detector. It was received a few days ago in good condition.

I have a few broadsides put out by the bank note engravers, but have not come across any in the past few years.

A couple of years ago I acquired a copy of Day's New-York Bank Note List and Counterfeit Detector for April 14, 1828. As far as I know this is the oldest of these periodicals in existence. When comiling my monograph I came across one of Day's that was published in 1830.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Bill

November 12, 1957

Mr. William Dillistin  
443 East 39th Street  
Paterson 4, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

It has been a long time since we have corresponded but I have been engaged in numismatic research to try to catch up with a few of the old pros, like yourself.

I am still very much interested in enlarging my group of counterfeit detectors and banknote reporters and merely wanted to tell you I have an item which is not listed in your book. It is entitled "Burnett, Drake & Company Reporter and Register of Counterfeit Banknotes", Vol. 8, No. 10, Boston, 1865. It is on approval and the owner wants \$12.50 for it which I think is out of line. It is, however, the latest one I have ever seen as it carries the final word on bank notes.

I also have a Taylor United States Money Reporter, dated 1851, offered to me at \$17.50.

If you have anything to trade for these items, would you let me know as I am not collecting the varieties and merely wish the information at different periods.

You were nice enough to let me have a few bank note reporters in the past and I wanted to help your collection as well as help my own sources of information, if I could.

I am enclosing a reprint of my recent article on counterfeit Continental currency.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

WFS/atb

WILLIAM H. DILLISTIN

BANK CONSULTANT

443 EAST 39TH STREET  
PATERSON 4, NEW JERSEY

November 24, 1957

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Glad to have your recent letter and the reprint on counterfeit Continental Currency.

The "Burnett, Drake & Company" reporter is a new one to me. From the volume number it would appear that it was first published about 1858. The names do not register and I did not find any reference to it when I searched the city directories in Boston under "Newspapers and Periodicals." The price is rather high.

I have two copies of Taylor's Reporter, one in 1847 and the other in 1848. The price asked is fantastic and it is not of interest to me.

As to a trade, I have been quite reluctant to part with any of my reporters, however, I would be interested in acquiring the Burnett Drake issue and offer in exchange; Imlay & Bicknell's Bank Note Reporter (Phila.) for September 1, 1850 and Thompson's Bank Note and Commercial Reporter for October 21, 1865. They both consist of 26 pages and are quite complete.

I have been considering writing an article on the altered notes of The Southern Bank of Bainbridge, Georgia. From my observations, I am of the opinion that there are more altered notes of that bank in existence than any other. There were, as you know, what might be said to be two different issues that were widely altered. Ones, twos and fives of the first issue and the familiar ones and twos of the second issue. I have original and altered notes of both issues, except the one dollar original of the first issue. The enclosed note is, I believe an altered note of The Southern Bank. I have written to a couple of dealers in an effort to obtain an original of this note. Do you have an original that you would care to trade for this altered item. If not interested in a trade and have an original that I could borrow some time for reproduction, please let me know.

In 1951 I called on a lady in Bainbridge who had quite a file of old newspapers contemporary with the existence of The Southern Bank which was in the nature of a wildcat outfit. I found many accounts of the operations of the bank that might make interesting reading.

Eric P. Newman 2

My activities in the numismatic field have not been very extensive for the past few years, although I did published "A Descriptive History of National Bank Notes," about a year ago. My main interest, however is in altered notes. I visited Barrett at Boys Town a couple of times in the past five years and we had an interesting visit.

While I retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York more than seven years ago, I keep quite busy. I have had a couple of bank consulting jobs during the past year and am a director of a small local bank. I have been President of the Board of Finance of the City of Paterson for the past two years and expect to again be appointed to a two year term. About a year ago Governor Meyner appointed me to a newly created State Mosquito Control Commission and at present I am serving as chairman of that commission. I have been a member of the Passaic County Mosquito Extermination Commission for nearly 15 years. With these activities, my time is well occupied.

Grace has been ill with the shingles since early in October and on Saturday the 30th we expect to sail for Bermuda and Nassau, to return on December 14th.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Bill

January 7, 1958

Mr. William B. Dillistin  
443 East 39th Street  
Paterson 4, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

I waited to answer your nice letter of November 24, 1957 until you came back from what I hope was a delightful vacation. I certainly hope your wife is better and that you had a pleasant holiday.

I am enclosing a memorandum giving you the complete masthead of the Burnett, Drake & Company Reporter.

With respect to the Southern Bank of Georgia, it is very amusing but I have been looking for many years for an unaltered \$1 note of the first type. I have never seen one and such a note ought to be extremely common. I certainly would like to have one for my collection and, naturally, you would too. I will keep my eyes open for you. I, of course, am fascinated by all the notes and have a lovely group of them which I mount with notes prior to alteration.

I am just completing a monograph for A.N.S. and have been asked to write an article for the British Museum Journal. This will keep me out of mischief for a while.

I am returning the Danbury alteration which you sent me.

My very kindest personal regards and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



WILLIAM H. DILLISTIN  
BANK CONSULTANT

443 EAST 39TH STREET  
PATERSON 4, NEW JERSEY

January 14, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I have your letter of January 7th returning the altered note of The Southern Bank. It certainly is strange that an unaltered note of this type does not turn up once in a while.

The copy of the masthead of the Burnett, Drake & Co., reporter shows that it was published by Thomas Groom & Co. This is of interest as you may have noticed in my history of bank note reporters (pp.114-5), that Willis & Co.'s reporter as well as the Clapp, Fuller & Browne reporter were both published by Thomas Groom & Co. They conducted a stationery business in Boston. The volume number of the Burnett, Drake reporter indicates that it was first published in 1857, and appears to have been circulating at the same time as that of Clapp, Fuller & Browne. You will note on p. 114 that the Boston city directories from 1846 to 1866 do not list the publishers of any bank note reporters. As I recall I examined those directories in the library of the American Antiquarian Society which as you probably know is an excellent source on early American history.


I have two Willis & Co., reporters, one dated January, 1847 and the other July, 1851

Eric P. Newman p.2

We had a pleasant vacation although we had three very rough days at sea. We did not miss a meal. However, thanks to bonomine. Grace came back well rested and I am sure that it did her much good, and incidently it did not do me any harm.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a stylized flourish at the end.

January 4, 1961

Mr. William H. Dillistin, Mayor,  
City Hall  
Paterson, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

I enjoyed reading the 1960 Report of your administration and Paterson is very lucky to have your leadership. I do believe that as a numismatist you should have had better pictures of money in the budget analysis portion of the report. You can find better counterfeiters.

Incidentally, I very often use the banknote reporters which you were nice enough to let me have and if at any time you can part with any others I will be grateful. They are so excellent for my research.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 18, 1962

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
Alexander Hamilton Hotel  
Paterson 12, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

It was most pleasant being with you on Saturday night and I am glad that the ANS has brought us together again.

You will recall that you stated you had some bank-note vignette advertising sheets and I would very much like to acquire them if they are not important to you at this time. I have so few that I am almost sure that I would not have them.

You also indicated that you might be in a position to send me a copy of your Descriptive History of National Banknotes and I find that I do not have one. It would be most appreciated.

In connection with your superb collection of Banknote Reporters, Counterfeit Detectors, etc. I think it is a wonderful idea to give a fine representation of them to ANS. I do not know what they already have but I presume that you do. As I explained to you, I would like very much to buy a few of them from you which would not hurt the ANS gift and would be most invaluable for me for my research. I am enclosing a list of those which I have and would like to fill in one of each type of detector if I do not have one and some of the dates where there are broad gaps.

Page 2

April 18, 1962

Mr. William H. Dillistin

I am also interested in the coin chart manuals as published during this early period.

I do look forward to hearing from you on this matter and want you to know how much I appreciate your cooperation.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 19, 1962

Dear Bill:

Thank you for the reprints.  
I received them just after  
mailing my other letter to you.

Sincerely,

*From the desk of*  
*ERIC P. NEWMAN*

May 1, 1962

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
55 Church Street  
Paterson, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

Your Descriptive History arrived this morning. During the noon hour I began reading it. Since I did not finish, I went out and got a hair cut so that I could finish it. It was more exciting to me than the original articles when they first came out and I learned so much more from them on this reading. Thank you, very much, for sending it to me.

I do not believe I can attend the ANS meeting on May 11. In any event, I look forward to hearing from you on the other matters whenever it is convenient.

I wanted to write you now as merely one who appreciates the enormous quantity of work that went into your research on the National Bank series.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



WILLIAM H. DILLISTIN  
BANK CONSULTANT

443 EAST 39TH STREET  
PATERSON 4, NEW JERSEY

November 5, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
400 Washington Street  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

Herewith are six old bank note reporters  
together with a 1849 Signature Examiner. These items  
will fill in some of the gaps in your holdings.

I thought that \$40.00 for the lot would be a  
fair price. You know their rarity. If you feel that  
price is too high - cut it down.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Bill

November 7, 1962

Mr. William H. Dillistin  
443 East 39th Street  
Paterson 4, New Jersey

Dear Bill:

The Banknote Reporters and Signature Examiner which you sent me were fascinating and I have found very many interesting items in them. The one which interested me most was a description of the spurious Merchant Bank notes which were prepared as a standard form to take care of all of the Merchants Banks throughout the country. These will certainly fill in the items which I already have on hand. A check for the amount you suggested is enclosed.

Any others you want to add to my collection will be most appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

June 29, 1964

Mrs. Robert Woodford  
1512 Spring Lane  
Bellevue Manor  
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mrs. Woodford:

I was so sorry to hear that your father died. He was a very close numismatic friend of mine for many years. We both had a sincere interest in research in paper money and in collecting it and the books which went along with it. He enjoyed research and writing along with his many other activities and that has been my practice, also. I certainly respect everything which he wrote and often discussed paper money matters with him when we were together.

Within the last year or so he was nice enough to sell me some of his bank note reporters and bank note detectors and he told me that in due course perhaps he would sell me more. I am very interested in this particular subject and when you reach a point that you are giving consideration to a disposition of ~~all~~<sup>any</sup> of his material, I would certainly like to have an opportunity to acquire some.

I also would be willing to buy some of the material and donate it to the American Numismatic Society unless, of course, you plan to do so.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

1512 Spring Lane  
Bellevue Manor  
Wilmington, Delaware  
July 28, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman

Thank you for your letter of June 29th which arrived while I was away from home. Your name is familiar to me since I have heard my father speak of you and I know that you shared many of his numismatic interests.

As you can well imagine, I have received a number of inquiries as to the intended disposition of my father's collection of obsolete state bank notes, bank note reporters and related material. Fortunately the task of deciding how to dispose of such items was made easier by the fact that my father left a letter of instructions with his will, of which my husband is executor, in which he expressed the desire that such material "be turned over to a prominent numismatic dealer to be sold at public auction so that the pleasure which I had in acquiring many of the items shall be given again to collectors of my own tastes".

He also requested that his bank note reporters be turned over to The American Numismatic Society which request we intend to carry out.

We have not as yet finished inventorying all of the material but we plan to complete the job this summer with a view to having an auction sale in New York early next fall. We shall be glad to advise you of the time and place of the sale when this is known to us.

Sincerely,

*Mary Woodford*  
(Mrs. Robert L. Woodford)

August 13, 1964

Mrs. Robert L. Woodford  
1512 Spring Lane  
Bellevue Manor  
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mrs. Woodford:

Thank you, very much, for your nice letter as to the plans for the disposition of Bill's numismatic material. I shall look forward to hearing from you with respect to the auction which you plan, as you indicated.

If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to call on me as I helped Bill acquire many of his New Jersey bank notes and shared with him the pleasure of some of his research.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb